

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-17 (cancelled).

18 (currently amended). Method for the prevention and or treatment of vaginal fungal infections which comprises the administration of administering a formulation comprising ascorbic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a patient in need of such a treatment wherein said formulation is administered after completion of the a standard treatment against bacterial, fungal or protozoarian infections.

19 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation is administered after completion of a standard treatment with one or more antimicrobial agents.

20 (currently amended). Method according to claim 18, wherein said antimicrobial agents are selected from the classes group consisting of antibacteric/antibiotics, antitrichomonas, and/or and antifungal agents.

21 (currently amended). Method according to claim 18, wherein said antimicrobial agents are selected from the group consisting of miconazole and metronidazole.

22 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation has a content in ascorbic acid from 0.1 to 25%, with respect to the total weight of the formulation.

23 (currently amended). Method according to claim 22, wherein said formulation has a content in acid ascorbic from 0.5 to 15%, ~~preferably from 1.0 to 10%~~, with respect to the total weight of the formulation.

24 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infection is a recurrence.

25 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infection is a superinfection.

26 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infections are caused by *Candida albicans*.

27 (currently amended). Method according to claim 18, wherein said fungal infection infections are caused by *Dermatophytes*.

28 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation is for topical application.

29 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein ascorbic acid is the only active ingredient contained in the formulation.

30 (currently amended). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation ~~includes customary~~ comprises additives selected from the group consisting of excipients and ~~or~~ adjuvants.

31 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein ascorbic acid is contained in the formulation in unitary dosages suitable for its application from 10 to 500 mg/day.

32 (previously presented). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation is in a form suitable for application to external genitals, scalp, intertriginous areas, or for insertion into the vagina, or for mouthwashes.

33 (currently amended). Method according to claim 18, wherein said formulation ~~includes:~~ is in the form of a cream, ointment, gel, lotion or foam for either skin or vaginal application; ~~moreover,~~ tablets, pessaries, capsules for vaginal application; ~~possible forms~~ a form for delayed melting, ~~intended to~~ a form for prolonged release of active principle; ~~or~~ a collutorium for mouthwashes.

34 (new). Method according to claim 23, wherein said formulation has a

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content in acid ascorbic from 1.0 to 10% with respect to the total weight of the formulation.